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Title: Need for moratorium on payment of interest to West Bengal.

प्रो. सौगत राय (दमदम) : महोदय, मेरे ख्याल से कम्युनली सेन्सिटिव इश्युज़ को संसद में नहीं उठाना चाहिए। This should be a place where everybody can speak and raise issues which are not concerned with religion, communalisation etc., but raise only those issues which are common to everybody....(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I would like to raise a matter of urgent public importance pertaining to the State of West Bengal. The Left Front Government in West Bengal left a total outstanding debt of Rs. 2.03 lakh crore when it demitted office in May, 2011. As a result of this, the present Government in West Bengal has to pay roughly Rs. 28,000 crore in the current year as principal and interest to the Central Government and a total of Rs. 83 crore in the last three years which is being deducted directly from the State's dues. The Government of West Bengal has been pleading for the last three years for a moratorium on the payment of interest, but has not received any response so far. As a result of this, development work in the State is being hampered badly.

I would urge the Central Government and the Finance Minister, who has already presented the Union Budget yesterday, to take a positive decision in this matter. Unfortunately, in his Budget Speech, the Finance Minister has not announced any package for debt-stressed States like West Bengal, Punjab and Kerala which are suffering badly. Our State Government and our Party, the All India Trinamool Congress, will continue to agitate on this issue till it is resolved and a moratorium is declared on interest payment for at least three years.

डॉ. नैपाल सिंह : माननीय सभापति जी, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं।

माननीय सभापति : डॉक्टर साहब, अगर आप व्यवस्था नहीं बनाएंगे तो कौन बनाएगा? आप उत्तर प्रदेश के सबसे सीनियर लोगों में से हैं। Let us maintain the dignity of the House. This is not proper.

अभी ज़ीरो आवर में कुछ और नाम हैं। माननीय सदस्य मेरे साथ सहयोग करेंगे कि मैं जिनका नाम पुकारूं, वे कृपया दो-दो मिनट में अपनी बात कह दें तो अच्छा रहेगा।